

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 15, 19 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the present application.

The title has been amended in accordance with the examiner's request to WEB BASED IMAGING PAGE REDIRECTOR SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING A REDIRECTOR REFERENCE THAT DIRECTS A BROWSER TO A REDIRECTOR SOFTWARE.

Regarding the examiner's request to remove computer programs over 300 lines in pages 38-43, applicants note that the number of computer lines is somewhat over 100, if a computer line is counted as each line that ends in an ";" as is standard in the industry. If every single line is counted, applicants have a count of 186 lines, which is within the 300 line limit.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103 over Hamzy in view of Kirsch. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is requested.

Hamzy utilizes a proxy server to intercept a document requested by a browser in order to add a "print button" to existing document content. Although the printer to which the "print button" refers may be determined by a user profile per column 5, lines 49-67, there is no indication in Hamzy that the user profile was anything other than a standard user profile associated with the proxy server. In particular, there is nothing in Hamzy to indicate that the user profile was associated even with a federated identify system such as "liberty alliance" or "MyServices" (which the "personal imaging repository" is).

In contrast, in embodiments of the present invention the web site that is the imaging source incorporates the processing action designator, e.g., the "print button," rather than having the "print button" added by a "proxy". This allows the imaging source website to participate in a more significant way in the printing process. The imaging source website is able to add a redirector reference to the document to be printed, which may be the user's personal imaging repository, per claim 14. Later, in one embodiment the imaging destination website could access this redirector reference and use it to contact the imaging source directly in order to negotiate the appropriate best form of content available from the source. In contrast, with Hamzy, the print button "points" back to the proxy server and the proxy server is responsible for facilitating the printing process. There can be no transfer of redirector references from an imaging source to an imaging destination.

Note that the imaging source website is responsible for delivering a web page to the client (the user's browser in one embodiment). This web page contains content to display a "print button," but is caused to operate in accordance with claim 1 to redirect the client (user's browser) to the redirector software at an external site when the print button is clicked by the user. It is noted that the imaging source website need not "know" that the redirector reference (URL) it is obtaining is the URL to a redirector software at an external site--it is simply obtaining the URL of the user's preferred print destination.

Note that the imaging source website does not need to "know" that the URL it is obtaining is the URL to a redirector software at an external site, thereby simplifying the implementation of the imaging source and imaging destination websites. The components in the system do not need to "know" anything about the redirector software or how it operates. From the perspective of the imaging source website, the redirector software at the external site is just another "preferred printing destination website" which it may obtain, for example, from the user's personal imaging repository (using an appropriate API).

The redirector software at the external site chooses amongst two or more potential imaging destination website URLs based on at least one rule, such as a combination of the user's current network address, the time of day, the kind of content, the source of that content, and the user's personal preferences. Note that the redirector software is NOT responsible for

delivering a web page to the user's browser that includes a print button or generating printed output. In fact, it is possible that the redirector software at the external site won't ever even access the content available at the browser or through the user's personal imaging repository (claim 14)--unless, accessing that content was necessary in order to choose amongst the two or more imaging destination URLs. (For example, the redirector website might access the content in order to determine if the content included any color. If so, the redirector might redirect the user's browser to an imaging destination website representing a color device. This assumes that the user has a preference based on whether or not the content contains color. If no such preference existed, it would not be necessary for the redirector website to access the content.)

The only thing the redirector software needs to do is decide where to redirect the user's client software (browser). During normal operation, the redirector software would not deliver any web pages to the user's browser that would be displayed. The redirector software would simply cause the user's browser to be redirected to the preferred imaging destination URL based on a rule.

Although ordinarily the redirector software at the external site will be accessed by the user clicking "print" for example, on the web page delivered by an imaging source (as described above), this doesn't have to be the case. Other websites could contain links to the redirector website. Thus, the redirector software at the external site could be used as part of a chain of links. The redirector software doesn't have to be, for example, the first site in the chain of links--it can come into play at any point.

Note that a redirector website embodiment of the external site doesn't have to be "the redirector website"--it can be "a redirector website". Assume that one person would like to set up complex rules that include the phase of the moon, but a second person prefers something simpler. It is not necessary to use the same redirector website. Through web-based imaging there is no need that there be ONE redirector website. The second person could set up his/her imaging destination redirection through "simple_redirector.com" and the first person could setup his/her redirection through "crazy_complex_redirector.com". The first person could then configure his/her preferred print destination to be

"crazy_complex_redirector.com". The second person configure his/her preferred print destination to be "simple_redirector.com". When the second person visits mapquest and clicks the "print" button, he/she will then be redirected to "simple_redirector.com". When the first person does the same, he/she will be redirected to "crazy_complex_redirector.com".

The ability to choose any external site as a redirector and to have a chain of links makes the web-based imaging approach remarkably flexible and leads to network effects. Also, one is not required to use a fixed set of imaging destinations--but can choose any that support web-based imaging. The decision of which redirector website one chooses has no impact on the imaging source websites one uses or the imaging destination websites one uses. The redirector website has nothing to do with rendering the printed data--it merely redirects one's browser. It has a simple role in the web-based imaging "universe"--it does its simple thing well and doesn't interfere with those things done by other parts of the web-based imaging system.

Note that the responsibilities of the imaging web page destination (or a web page delivered to the user's browser by that redirector software website) may include accessing the content, such as that available through the user's personal imaging repository and doing something with it. What is done with the accessed content can vary widely based on the type of imaging destination website. The destination website could print the content, store the content, transform the content, or simply display the content.

Hamzy does not provide any of the flexibility described above. Hamzy does include the notion of a user profile--however, that user profile is associated with its version of a "redirector". Its version of a redirector is a proxy server. A proxy server is a web server that relays requests from a browser to an actual website. Because all requests and responses passed between the user's browser and the actual website are passed through the proxy server, the proxy server may modify the web pages delivered to the browser, which is what Hamzy does.

If one browses to mapquest.com using Hamzy's proxy server, Hamzy's web proxy server will add a "print button" to the web page that is delivered to the browser. The URL

associated with this print button point's directly to the Hamzy's proxy server. When a person clicks on this "print button", the person's browser will make a request to Hamzy's proxy server which causes the web page to be printed. Hamzy's proxy server generates print data and delivers that print data to the appropriate printer. Note that both mapquest.com and the printer are blind to what Hamzy's proxy server is doing. This means that the mapquest.com has no opportunity to deliver a high resolution map to the printer. The printer cannot have a "conversation" with mapquest.com where it determines that a 600 dpi version of the map is required. Instead, the Hamzy proxy server gets what it gets--the standard low resolution (75dpi) map image.

Thus, with Hamzy's proxy server one misses out on better output quality because a direct negotiation between the imaging source website and imaging destination website cannot occur. One also loses the ability to choose which redirector service to use (e.g. crazy_complicated_redirector.com). The person is limited to whatever has been designated. As an example, proxy servers are typically used by companies as follows: HP might have web proxy servers that are used in order to access web sites outside of HP's firewall. Although HP has several physical proxy servers to manage the volume of web traffic, to make supporting the proxy servers practical all the proxy servers come from the same vendor. If Hamzy were implemented at HP, one would have access to a single Hamzy-style redirector/printing mechanism. One would not be able to choose ANY website to be the redirector.

Another shortcoming of Hamzy's proxy server is the ability of the user to visit a chain of websites and have the redirector website as one of the websites in the chain. Hamzy's proxy server doesn't really know what the user wants to print. It's "dumb" in the sense that it will add a "print" button to every web page the user browses to. It does not know that the mapquest website is actually what the user wants to print and that the "internet imaging home" website is just being visited in order to allow the user to make decisions about what to do with the map. If the user clicked "print" while visiting the "internet imaging home" website, Hamzy's proxy server would faithfully print a copy of the "internet imaging home" page. (Not the mapquest web page that the user actually wants to print!)

Thus, claim 1 extends the web-based imaging system to include redirection to an imaging destination based on a rule. The overall idea of redirection is included in Hamzy, however, the approach is quite different and limited.

In the present claims, the imaging source website simply includes a link to the "redirector software" at the external site. When the user clicks "print" they are redirected, in one embodiment, to the "redirector" website, which determines the appropriate website to redirect to, and then redirects the user to that website. The "redirectory" website isn't a proxy server. It's an external site such as a website.

Kirsch does not remedy the foregoing deficiencies. Moreover, one of ordinary skill would not be motivated to modify Hamzy with Kirsch, and there is no enablement explaining to one of ordinary skill how such a modification could take place that would meet applicants' claims.

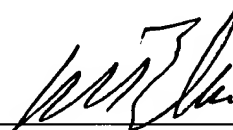
In view of the foregoing amendments and Remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited and an early passage to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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